

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please replace all previous versions of the claims with the following listing:

1. (Currently Amended) A shaft, used for an electric motor, to which a commutator to be fitted having a fit hole is fitted / fixed, comprising:
four strips of knurls,
wherein each strip of knurls is formed on an outer circumferential surface of the shaft as to extend along an axial direction,
wherein each strip of knurls is formed into an acute-angled triangle,
[[and]]
wherein the strips of knurls are evenly spaced circumferentially about the shaft as measured from a vertex of the acute-angled triangles of each knurl,
wherein a pair of groove portions is formed between a pair of knurls at each position substantially adjacent to those knurls and another pair of groove portions is formed between another pair of knurls at each position substantially adjacent to those knurls,
wherein the vertexes protrude radially outward from the outer circumferential surface of the shaft and the groove portions sink radially inward from the outer circumferential surface of the shaft, and
wherein the outer circumferential surface of the shaft is placed between each pair of knurls and each pair of groove portions.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Previously Presented) The shaft according to claim 1, wherein axial-directional lengthwise dimensions of the knurls are set longer than that of the commutator to be fitted.

5. (Previously Presented) The shaft according to claim 1, wherein an inner diameter of the fit hole is set larger than an outer diameter of the shaft and wherein the commutator to be fitted is fitted/fixed to the knurls.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) The shaft according to claim 4, wherein each strip of knurls is spaced from each other with the outer circumferential surface of the shaft.

10. (Previously Presented) The shaft according to claim 5, wherein the vertexes and an inner surface of the fit hole elastically deform upon contact.

11. (Canceled)